

167 Ferguson Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401

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DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & ZONING

Burlington Development Review Board
149 Church Street, City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Board Members:

I am writing as a resident of Ferguson Avenue regarding the plans to convert a home to a small day care center at 156 Ferguson. I understand there is a need for childcare and what a convenience it would be for families to have it in their own neighborhood. However, a small day care that could care for up to 20 children is very different from a home day care. This proposal would introduce a commercial enterprise into a residential neighborhood of mostly single-family dwellings. In my opinion this is not a good mix, especially in terms of safety.

From looking at the proposed plans for the day care, I cannot see any indication of where parents would drop off and pick up their children. There tend to be cars parked on the street, which makes visibility for drivers a challenge. The street is commonly used as a cut through for drivers trying to avoid traffic on Shelburne Road. I feel this business would add to traffic problems and make it less safe for all the children who live here. They like to ride their bikes and scooters and parents want to feel it is safe for them to play outside.

When I received the letter in the mail from the DRB, I understood "small day care" to be an in-home day care and was very surprised to learn of the plans to have up to 20 children. The letter failed to describe the extent to which this home would be converted. It would have been meaningful to have a definition included of a "small day care" in the document. I also wasn't aware the house was on Ferguson Avenue. It appears to use a driveway on Wells Street. I really feel that by not talking to neighbors about their proposal and getting our support it shows a lack of respect and I cannot support this project.

Sincerely,

Kristen Chutter-Cressy